

Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan
Conference Call -- November 17, 2006
[\(w/actions underlined\)](#)

A Gulf of Mexico Regional Sediment Management Master Plan (GRSMMP) was held on November 17, 2006 (Agenda attached below). The conference call participants were: Ray Newby (TX), Tom Calnan (TX), Juan Moya (TX), Robert Seyfarth (MS), Rick Ruebsamen (NMFS), Jeff Williams (USGS), Rafael Calderon (TNC), Matt Schrader (SAJ), Doug Jacobson (EPA), Lynn Martin (IWR), and Larry Parson (SAM). Below are the notes from the call.

1. December Science Assessment workshop: A summary of the 5-6 Dec. workshop at the USGS facility in St Petersburg, FL was discussed. The workshop is shaping up to include a good range of representatives from the Federal agencies, the states, several from private sector, and hopefully academia to discuss the state of the knowledge of sediment resources and sediment studies; accessing the information and how it can benefit development of the GRSMMP. A summary of the workshop will be distributed to the GRSMMP team. It is expected that this workshop will be beneficial in shaping the agenda and generate informed discussion for March workshop.

2. Objectives/Purpose Statement: It should be pointed here that a more recent version exists of the Objectives/Purpose Statement and Master Plan Outline than the version distributed prior to the conference call. The more recent reflects the changes and discussions from the November 3 meeting in New Orleans. [Larry Parson will send out the most recent version will be distributed to the GRSMMP team.](#)

Master Plan Outline: The mast plan outline was brought up for discussion, however, no one on the call had any issues at the time. It was agreed that everyone would continue to digest and think about further outline revisions.

Statement of Need: A draft statement of need is included in the most recent Objectives/Purpose Statement, which was not brought out during the conference call. The draft needs statement is intended to provide a basis for further discussion and consideration. Since the master plan is an initiative from the Regional Restoration focus area, it was discussed that the states should have a major role in shaping this statement. Representatives from TX and MS were on the call and will be working to provide input into the needs statement. [Larry Parson will contact FL, AL, and LA to let them know about their roles in this. The states are to send a draft version or ideas about this to Larry by Dec. 1 so that this can help spawn discussions at the Dec workshop.](#)

2. March GRSMMP Workshop – It was decided that the GRSMMP work shop will be 8-9 March, 1 ½ days, piggy-backing on the AL-MS hosted Restoration Coordination Team workshop which will be (2 ½ days) 6-8 March in Mobile area. This would give the GRSMMP 1 ½ days (afternoon of 8 March-9March). Concerns were raised that this may make for too long of a week workshop which would last almost a whole week. [State representatives and other team member need to be thinking about this and provide input during the next scheduled conference call.](#) It was suggested that the workshop not be too ambitious and that it should concentrate on issues presented in Sections II and III from the MP outline.

Texas expects to host the next workshop in mid-May timeframe and is planning to invite representatives from Mexico). Florida will likely host their workshop in the summer. Each of these workshops will help inform and define the scoping and development of the GRSMMP. A suggestion was made to recap what was learned from the New Orleans workshop relative to the GRSMMP.

A question was asked concerning the participation of the different Corps Districts throughout the Gulf region and their participation in the workshop and GRSMMP effort. Larry Parson responded that we have participants designated in each district and will work to get them involved at the appropriate levels.

Larry Parson will start drafting an agenda for the March workshop and send the team a copy of the draft prior to the next scheduled conference call. He will also send out the draft of AL-MS workshop agenda.

The States have been tasked to think about and put together a list of appropriate stakeholders that should be invited to participate in the March workshop.

Discussion raised the issue of how much of the Outline sections II (Regional Sediment Processes), IV Data Management/Regional GIS) and V (tools) will be discussed at the December workshop? It was pointed out that some of these items seem more suited to the science workshop, rather than the March workshop. Larry will send the GRSMMP team a copy of the draft agenda for the December meeting.

4. Texas Sediment Needs Workshop: Juan Moya summarized the recent workshop that they hosted on state needs for on sediment resources for habitat restoration, beach nourishment, and other purposes, along with identification of sediment sources. The discussions during the workshop revealed that not everyone needs sand and sediments the same way. Four counties along the north Texas coast have different needs from those further to the south. The workshop identified opportunities to recycle material from within some of the bayside placement areas. Some of the follow on efforts include from the workshop include:

- Building a database with sediment characteristics, locations...
- Meeting with regulatory agencies to discuss requirements for permits for the completion of projects and monitoring requirements
- Matching future dredging projects with potential beneficial use opportunities
- Quantify sediment needs county by county
- Will work with Louisiana and MMS to coordinate on off-shore sand resources

5. Mississippi Sediment Activities: Further discussion led to the question of what is being along coastal MS related to sediment needs and resource assessment. Robert Seyfarth from MS stated that if a decision is made to rebuild the barrier islands a determination would have to be made as to what dimensions and will there enough material to do it? Identification of re-occurring dredging projects and opportunities for beneficial use, and other sediment availability will be part of the MS Comprehensive Improvement Plan. Data will likely be put into the GIS system

that has already been established by the Mobile District (per Larry). It was suggested that the MsCIP be part of the MS agenda for the March meeting, which reinforces that the state meetings will be useful toward refining the notion of the GRSMMP

6. Other Relevant Issue: Rafael Calderon from TNC mentioned a NY Times article on a recent meeting of sediment issues in LA and the relevance to the GRSMMP. Rafael sent a copy to the GRSMMP team.

7. Next Conference Call: Prior to the conference call a representative from Louisiana DNR had requested that the GRSMMP calls not be scheduled for Fridays. Most of their office is out Fridays and if we conducted the meetings on another day of the week that there would be greater participation from LDNR. The next conference call is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 14 at 2:00 central.

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AGENDA

Status of Scientific Assessment Workshop

Discussion

- Objectives/Purpose Statement
- Master Plan Outline
- Statement of Need

March Workshop

- Objectives
- Agenda
- Participants

Other Issues

Next Conference Call